

## **Performance and Finance Select Committee**

**9 July 2018**

### **Annual Scrutiny Performance 2017-18**

#### **Report by Director of Law and Assurance and Head of Democratic Services**

#### **Executive Summary**

The annual Scrutiny Newsletter is attached as Appendix A. This summarises the work of the Select Committees in 2017-18 and reports the performance data for the end of year.

#### **Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to:

- a) Review Scrutiny performance and make any recommendations for improvements; and
- b) Consider its role in improving scrutiny practice and identify any training or development needs for Scrutiny Members.

## **1. Background**

1.1 The Performance and Finance Select Committee has overall responsibility for monitoring the performance of the scrutiny function. It carries this out through the publication and review of the scrutiny newsletter, which is intended to provide members with information to fulfil this monitoring role. The newsletter provides an annual overview of the work of select committees, reports overall performance of the Scrutiny function, shares best practice and highlights any future development or training required by select committee members.

## **2. Scrutiny End of Year Newsletter for 2017-18**

2.1 The end of year Scrutiny Newsletter is attached as Appendix A for Members' consideration. The newsletter covers:

- Select Committee Annual Survey Results
- Performance monitoring data for 2017-18
- What has worked well and areas for future development
- Overview of the key issues covered in the period
- Joint scrutiny arrangements
- Task and Finish Groups
- Future meeting dates 2018-19

2.2 The newsletter provides a summary of information collated from the Select Committee Annual Survey and feedback from the all member scrutiny session

held in February 2018. The survey was distributed to all select committee members to give their views of the scrutiny function. The data in the Newsletter shows a comparison with previous year's figures to highlight where changes have occurred. The response rate of return of the survey was 60%, a decrease from last year. The analysis shows that members are generally slightly less satisfied with the work of the select committees than in the previous year, with 7 out of 13 scores reducing and 6 improving. The largest reduction in satisfaction levels was around the papers presented to the select committee meeting the needs of members, reducing from a 90% to a 76% satisfaction level from members. This is a concern and officers will work with senior officers and members to improve this over the next year.

- 2.3 The newsletter also contains performance monitoring data for the year 2017-18. The aim of the newsletter is to provide PFSC Members with information to assist them in their overarching scrutiny monitoring role. The performance data included in the newsletter is based on the key issues to be monitored and achieved following the Scrutiny Review carried out in 2011. As can be seen from the data a large number of recommendations have been made and accepted by Cabinet Members to assist them in their decision-making role. The newsletter also briefly highlights the key issues scrutinised over the year to ensure the strategic issues are being addressed and that the approved work programme is on track.
- 2.4 The newsletter is also available on-line so that all members, the public, other local authority officers and any other interested parties, e.g. district and borough councils, can access it and find out about scrutiny in West Sussex.

### **3 Implications**

- 3.1 There are no resource, risk management, Crime and Disorder Act or Human Rights Act implications arising directly from this report. However, many of the substantive reports presented to Committees will have some implications and an Equality Impact Report would have been/will be included as necessary.

**Tony Kershaw**  
Director of Law and Assurance

**Helen Kenny**  
Head of Democratic Services

**Contact:** Susanne Sanger, Senior Advisor, 0330 22 22550

### **Appendix**

A End of Year Scrutiny Newsletter

### **Background Papers**

None